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NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE AND IPA, NSC FOR ABRAMS/DORAN/WATERS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/06/2017
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SUBJECT: MINISTER OF INTERIOR PROPOSES "100-DAY SECURITY
PLAN"

CLASSIFIED BY: CONSUL GENERAL JAKE WALLS, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

¶1. (C) SUMMARY. NEW PA INTERIOR MINISTER (MOI) HANI AL-QAWASMI (INDEPENDENT) TOLD PALESTINIAN PRESS APRIL 4 THAT THE MOI HAS PREPARED A 100-DAY SECURITY PLAN TO ENFORCE DOMESTIC LAW AND ORDER. TECHNICAL TEAM FOR REFORM (TTR) CHAIRMAN BASIL JABR TOLD POLOFF APRIL 5 THAT THE MOI PLAN IS "LOUSY, HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH SECURITY, WILL NOT GO ANYWHERE," AND WAS NOT COORDINATED WITH NSA MUHAMMAD DAHLAN OR ANY OF THE SECURITY CHIEFS. HE SAID IT REPRESENTS AL-QAWASMIS REACTION TO PUBLIC PRESSURE TO IMPROVE LOCAL SECURITY. HAMAS PLC BLOC HEAD (AND FORMER MOI) SA'ID SIYAM TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE "EXECUTIVE FORCE" WILL NOT BE DISBANDED, WHILE AL-QAWASMI SAID THE FORCE'S FUTURE IS PART OF MORE GENERAL EFFORTS TO RESTRUCTURE THE PALESTINIAN SECURITY FORCES (PASF).

MOI 100-DAY SECURITY PLAN

¶2. (U) MOI HANI AL-QAWASMI TOLD PALESTINIAN PRESS IN GAZA ON APRIL 4 THAT THE MOI HAS PREPARED A SECURITY PLAN TO ENFORCE DOMESTIC ORDER. HE SAID THE PLAN, WHICH CALLS FOR DEPLOYMENTS OF SECURITY FORCES TO PATROL THE STREETS AND REMOVE ARMED GANGS, WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE PA CABINET APRIL ¶7.

¶3. (C) TTR CHAIRMAN BASIL JABR TOLD POLOFF APRIL 5 THAT THE MOI PLAN IS "LOUSY, HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH SECURITY, AND WILL NOT GO ANYWHERE." THE PLAN WAS NOT COORDINATED WITH NSA MUHAMMAD DAHLAN OR ANY OF THE SECURITY CHIEFS, HE SAID, AND IS AL-QAWASMIS PERSONAL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC PRESSURE TO IMPROVE LAW ENFORCEMENT. MUCH OF THE PLAN CONSISTS OF MEASURES TO REGULATE STREET-SIDE SHOPS AND TRAFFIC, NOT SPECIFIC DEPLOYMENT PLANS, HE SAID.

EXECUTIVE FORCE

¶4. (SBU) HAMAS PLC BLOC HEAD (AND FORMER MOI) SA'ID SIYAM TOLD PALESTINIAN NEWSPAPERS APRIL 3 THAT THE "EXECUTIVE FORCE" WILL NOT BE DISBANDED. HE CALLED IT THE ONLY SECURITY FORCE CAPABLE OF PERFORMING ITS FUNCTIONS AND SAID SECURITY WILL SUFFER IF IT IS DISMANTLED. MOI AL-QAWASMI TOLD PRESS APRIL 4 THAT THE EXECUTIVE FORCE'S FUTURE WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE CONTEXT OF OVERALL PASF RESTRUCTURING. PASF CONTACTS SAY NO SERIOUS EFFORTS TO DISBAND THE EXECUTIVE FORCE ARE UNDERWAY.

COMMENT

¶5. (C) WITH NO EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THE PASF, MOI AL-QAWASMI DOES NOT POSSESS ANY OF THE TOOLS TO IMPLEMENT HIS

SECURITY PLAN, AND HE IS UNLIKELY TO RECEIVE ANY ASSISTANCE FROM NSA DAHLAN OR THE SECURITY CHIEFS. THE INTERIOR MINISTER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL SECURITY AND WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE NEW NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (NSC), BUT HE WAS NOT CHOSEN FOR SECURITY EXPERIENCE AND IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT INDEPENDENT DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY.

WALLES